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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
LATHOM AND BURSCOUGH.

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Annual Report

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



ALFRED SPEIGHT, D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



G. Porter, Printer, Burscough.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
OF LATHOM AND BURSCOUGH.



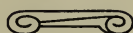
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

1925.

REPORT.



To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Lathom and Burscough.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1925.

Area and Population.

The district is really semi-rural, and its area is 13,642 acres. Most of it is very flat, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal runs through it from East to West, the railway line from Southport to Manchester, and the line from Liverpool to Preston cross almost in the centre. The population according to the Registrar General's latest estimate, is 7,714, compared to 7,697 for the previous year. The number of inhabited houses according to the last census, being 1,586, this gives an average of 4.87 persons per house.

The chief industry is Agriculture. A certain number of the population, much smaller than formerly, are employed on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. In addition there are a Flour Mill, a Produce Merchants' business, Royal Army Ordnance Stores, a Sawmill, a Bakery, two Cakeworks, two Brickworks, whilst in Westhead there is a Colliery providing employment for the people in the South-East portion of the District. None of the occupations in the area seem to have any special detrimental effect on the health of the workers.

Births.

The Births registered in 1925 total 131, compared to 126 in 1924. They consist of 68 males and 63 females, including 2 males and 2 females illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate of 16.9 per 1,000 per annum, in comparison with a birth-rate of 16.3 for the previous year, and with a birth-rate of 18.3 for the whole country. The birth-rate in 1925 has decreased in comparison with the average birth-rate for the previous five years by 3.5 per 1,000.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 90 (45 males and 45 females), compared to 81 for 1924. This gives a death-rate of 11.6 per 1,000 per annum in comparison with a rate of 10.5 per 1,000 for 1924, whilst the death-rate for the whole country was 12.2 per 1,000.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .77 per 1,000 compared to .51 per 1,000 for 1924, whilst the average death-rate from this cause for the previous five years was .46 per 1,000.

Nine deaths of infants under one year have been registered, compared to 10 the previous year. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 68 per 1,000 compared to a rate of 78 per 1,000 for the year 1924, whilst the mean Infantile Mortality rate for the previous five years was 87 per 1,000.

The Causes of Infantile Deaths were:

Bronchitis	-	-	-	3
Premature Birth	-	-	-	3
Debility from Birth	-	-	-	1
Icterus Neonatorum	-	-	-	1
Convulsions	-	-	-	1

Classification of Principal Causes of Death.

Infectious Diseases:—

Enteric Fever	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	6
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	1

Diseases of Circulatory System:—

Heart Disease	-	-	-	10
Arteriosclerosis	-	-	-	2

Diseases of Respiratory System:—

Bronchitis	-	-	-	14
Pneumonia	-	-	-	6
Other Respiratory Disease	-	-	-	1

Abdominal Diseases:—

Appendicitis	-	-	-	2
Nephritis	-	-	-	3

Malignant Diseases:—

Cancer	-	-	-	10
Cerebral Hemorrhage	-	-	-	5

A noticeable feature of the above is the increased number of deaths from Respiratory and Infectious Diseases, many due to the Influenza Epidemic during the early part of the year.

Infectious Diseases:—

74 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1925 compared to:

38	cases	in	1924.
56	„	„	1923
64	„	„	1922
73	„	„	1921
107	„	„	1920

The larger number of notifications in 1925 are due chiefly to the larger number of Pneumonia cases notified during the Influenza Epidemic in the first part of the year, and also to the large number of Scarlet Fever cases notified during the latter part of the year. This disease at that time was very prevalent throughout Lancashire.

The diseases notified consist of:—

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	19
Diphtheria	-	-	-	5
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	27
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	5

Scarlet Fever.—19 cases notified, compared to 8 cases notified in 1924, and 7 in 1923. All the patients except one were treated in Hospital, and there were no deaths. There were two “return” cases during the year, included in the above total.

Diphtheria.—5 cases were notified, compared to 2 cases notified in 1924, and 9 in 1923. All the patients were treated in Hospital and there were no deaths. In connection with these cases 7 tubes of Antitoxin were used, 8,000 units each dose.

Enteric Fever.—2 cases were notified, one being treated in Hospital and one at home. The latter case died.

Pneumonia.—27 cases were notified in 1925 compared to 17 cases in 1924, and compared to 20 in 1923, and there were 6 deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—4 cases were notified in 1925, compared to none in 1924, and compared to one in 1923. Two cases were notified from one house, and there was one death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—1 case notified during the year. This was treated at the special department of the Southport Infirmary and recovered completely with vision unimpaired.

Erysipelas.—2 cases were notified during the year and both recovered.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—9 cases were notified during the year, compared to 6 notified in 1924. There were 6 deaths from this disease, compared to 4 deaths in 1924, and 4 deaths in 1923, and the same number in 1922.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—5 cases were notified during the year, compared to 4 cases notified in 1924, 7 cases notified in 1923, and 3 cases notified in 1922. There was one death from this disease in 1925, none in 1924, 2 deaths in 1923, and one death in 1922.

In addition to above diseases notified **Influenza** occurred during the first part of the year and accounted for the high incidence of Pneumonia. Measles was also very prevalent during the year, and schools were closed on three occasions, whilst the schools were also closed during the year on account of Influenza and Mumps.

In connection with the prevention of the spread of Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Ormskirk has been used freely. The number of houses disinfected during 1925 was 36, the schools

have been disinfected 6 times, and 176 articles of clothing have been disinfected. All the latter have been done at the Isolation Hospital.

In addition to the above, the Pulmonary Hospital at Rufford is now open for patients suffering from Tuberculosis, where an X-Ray apparatus is installed for the purpose of examining all doubtful cases.

Bacteriology.—Specimens of sputum are examined by the Tuberculosis Authority.

Two Widal Tests for Enteric Fever have been done during the year.

Nine Throat Swabs have been forwarded by resident Practitioners and tested in the Virol Research Laboratories, 5 being positive, 4 negative. Whilst 8 Throat Swabs were sent from the Isolation Hospital, Ormskirk. Diphtheria Antitoxin can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health in case of emergency, in addition to the supply kept at the Isolation Hospital, Ormskirk.

Nursing Arrangements Available for the District.

The Council has placed a room in the Council Offices at the disposal of the County Council. This is used as an unofficial Child Welfare Centre, and meetings of Mothers and the Welfare Nurse take place on Friday Afternoons from 1-30 to 3-30 p.m. Supplies of food and milk in the shape of Glaxo, Cow and Gates, Fresh Milk, Virol, etc., are distributed by the Welfare Nurse free in approved cases, whilst in other cases she distributes it at cost price. There is no Hospital accommodation in the district for

Maternity cases, the nearest being Southport Infirmary. This Hospital undertakes the treatment of all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and if necessary, admits the mother at the same time. The Midwifery service in the area is very satisfactory, two midwives are on the County Council Register, both practising in the district.

General Nursing in the home is provided by the Lady Lathom Memorial District Nursing Association, one Nurse being employed.

General Sanitation.

In this part of my report is embodied the report of the Sanitary Inspector—Mr. Burrows.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from 2 boreholes in new red sandstone at Dark Lane, Burscough. The supply is constant, approximately 1614 houses being supplied. There is no possibility of contamination, and the new 24-inch borehole is almost completed to augment existing supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated at New Lane, Burscough, where the method of treatment is by settling tanks and broad irrigation, and at Westhead, Lathom, where the treatment is by Chemical (aluminoferric) Precipitation and Bacteria Beds. The Drainage system is on the separate system for old property, whilst new property with water closets have roof drainage connected. Certain parts of the Township are without proper drainage system. New drains are tested by the Hydraulic Test. Main sewers are flushed by hand-operated Adams Syphon Flushing Tanks.

Closet accomodation at end of 1925:—

Number of Middens	-	-	-	741
Number of Closets attached to these	-	-	-	1143
Number of Pail Closets	-	-	-	2
Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	-	-	-	210
Number of Fresh Water Closets	-	-	-	448
Number of Movable Ashbins	-	-	-	176
Number of Waste Water Closets	-	-	-	6

		During year	During 5 years 1921-1925
Number of Privy Closets converted to Fresh W.C.'s	-	-	25
			67
Number of Houses at which mov- able Ashbins have been sub- stituted for fixed Receptacles		24	76

The Council contributes £3 per closet towards the cost of conversion. Water Closets are provided exclusively for new property.

Scavenging.

The District is scavenged by Council's staff. Re-organisation is under consideration by the Sanitary Authority from horse to motor transport.

Sanitary Inspections.

70 premsies have been visited during 1925. number of defects discovered have been 33, and these have been remedied. In six, informal notices were served.

Smoke Nuisance.

One new factory has had to be written to by Council owing to emission of excessive smoke. Work of raising chimney is in hand. No legal proceedings have been taken, and there are no regulations as to the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour.

Workshops.

All are in good condition.

Canal Boats.

21 Canal Boats were inspected, and all found satisfactory.

Schools.

Their sanitary condition is good, some of playgrounds still only partly paved. Better heating arrangements and better ventilation are required at Newburgh School. The water supply to each is from Council's main and is satisfactory.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—This is good, but not too much is produced in the district, a large amount of milk being brought in.

The condition of the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk shops is good. They are periodically inspected, and the Regulations made under the order of the L.G.B. are enforced as before. The amount of air space for cows not habitually grazed is limited to 800 cubic feet.

There are six cowkeepers on the Register, and two Milk Purveyors (other than cowkeepers) on the Register. No action has been taken during the year with regard to Tuberculous milk.

(b) **Meat.**—The meat sold in the district is of good quality, and there are no complaints to make as regards stalls, shops, stores, no public slaughterhouse has been provided, but there are three private slaughterhouses licensed.

(c) **Other Foods.**—There are four Bakehouses in the district, and they are all in good condition.

Housing.

General Observations:—

The general housing conditions in the area are on the whole, fairly good. There is still a shortage of houses, but at the same time building is proceeding steadily by private enterprise. The Council have erected 12 houses during last year, but applications for them were not as numerous as was expected. Considering that there has not been any important change in the population, there is still some overcrowding which is being gradually remedied. The chief measure taken for dealing with this has been the Council's Building Scheme, and the two worst or most serious cases of overcrowding during the year 1925 have already been dealt with. There still remain other instances which one comes across during epidemics. During the measles epidemic of last year, one house with 15 people living in it had six children down with the disease at one and the same time. The general standard of housing in the area is on the whole, good, the defects found consist chiefly of want of repair to spouts, and roofs, and

neglect of painting generally. Some of this may be due to the lack of proper management by owners, some may be due to the difficulty of builders obtaining labour to carry out jobbing work owing to having new building on hand.

The water supply is good, and is being augmented, with regard to closet accomodation, the Council have agreed to deal with each case on its merits, and approved cases have received £3 towards conversion, with regard to Refuse Disposal that is under consideration. New building bye-laws are under revision by the Ministry of Health.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year	25
With State assistance by the Local Authority	8
„ „ „ by other bodies	8
Number of Houses in course of erection under Building Scheme	4
Number of advances made by Subsidy	8
Amount of Subsidies, £680.	
Number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects	47
Number of Dwelling Houses which were recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910	25
Number of Dwelling Houses found unfit for human habitation	1
Number of Houses demolished voluntarily by owners	1

The most notable sanitary improvement during the year 1925 has been the erection of 12 houses for the working-classes.

The Chief Sanitary requirements of the District are:

I.—The erection of more working-class houses to remedy overcrowding, which still exists.

II.—The conversion of more privy middens to fresh water closets.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED SPEIGHT, D.P.H.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total		Per 1,000 of Population.		Infantile Mortality rate
	Births in 1925	Deaths in 1925	Birth rate	Death rate	
Births in 1925	131	68			63
Deaths in 1925	90	45			45
Mean of 5 years.					
1895-1899	31.7	15.2	1.03	1.32	132
1900-1904	29.5	15.2	1.00	1.46	146
1905-1909	25.4	13.9	0.59	1.07	107
1910-1914	23.5	13.2	0.87	83	83
1915-1919	19.8	15.4	0.74	104	104
1920-1924	20.4	11.7	0.46	87	87
Year 1924	16.3	10.5	0.51	78	78
" 1925	16.9	11.6	0.77	68	68
Increase or decrease in 1925 on mean of 5 years	=3.5	=0.1	+ 0.31	= 19	= 19
On previous year	... + 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 0.26	= 10	= 10

TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
5-10	M.	F.	M.	F.
10-15	1	2	1	
15-20		1		
20-25	2	1	2	1
25-35		3		
35-45	1	1		
45-55		1		
55-65	3	6	2	3
Totals	9	5	5	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Total at all ages	under	1-2	2-3	3-4	Years. 4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	over 65
Scarlet Fever	19				3	3	6	3	1	3			
Diphtheria	5		1		1		2		1				
Enteric Fever	2									1	1		
Pneumonia	27		1	2			3		2	6	6	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	4	1						1			1	1	
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ...	1	1											
Erysipelas	2									2			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	9									6	1	2	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	5						3		1	1			

